



URBAN DISTRICT OF WHITTLESEY

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR  
1971



OFFICERS OF THE WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health :

D.C.Logan, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Surveyor & Public Health Inspector :

D.A.Bamford, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Surveyor & Additional  
Public Health Inspector :

J.B.Stocks

OFFICES OF THE WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
9, Queen Street,  
Whittlesey.

Telephone Number

Whittlesey 2224

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	23,362
Number of Inhabited Houses	3,667
Rateable Value (at 31.12.71)	£395,122
Product of 1P rate (at 31.3.71)	£3,681.64
Population (Registrar General's Figures)	10,390



TO:

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I wish to present my annual report on the health of the population of Whittlesey for the year 1971.

Once again I take pleasure in recording my appreciation of the work of my colleagues in the Department, Mr. Bamford, Mr. Stocks and Mrs. Tyers, with whom it is a great pleasure to work. Their experience is invaluable in coping with the many problems with which they are faced and their patience and courtesy in dealing with the public contributes much to the smooth running of the Department.

I have the honour to be,

Your most obedient servant,

D.C. LOGAN

Medical Officer of Health.



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## VITAL STATISTICS

### LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	71	85	156
Illegitimate	3	1	4
	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Total:	74	86	160
	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>

### Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population

Whittlesey Urban District	-	15.4
Whittlesey Urban District adjusted	-	15.4
England and Wales	-	16.0

Illegitimate Live Births per cent of Total Live Births      2.5

The most significant feature of the birth rate has been the marked reduction in the number of illegitimate babies. This has dropped from 8.75% in 1968 to 2.5% in 1971. This is due to the liberal interpretation of the Abortion Act, 1967, which has been adopted by the family doctors in Whittlesey and the gynaecological staffs of the neighbouring hospitals. Failure to take family planning measures by those at risk, frequently necessitates the less desirable alternative of abortion when an unwanted pregnancy occurs but it is at least preferable to the birth of a child in a home where there is no welcome.

### STILLBIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Total:	1	-	1
	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>

### Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Live and Stillbirths

Whittlesey Urban District	-	6
England and Wales	-	12

There was one stillbirth during the year which occurred after the 29th week of pregnancy. It was due to maternal haemorrhage of undetermined cause.

### TOTAL LIVE AND STILLBIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	72	85	157
Illegitimate	3	1	4
	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Total:	75	86	161
	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>







INFANT DEATHS (Deaths under one year)

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Total:	-	1	1
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 Total Live Births

Whittlesey Urban District	-	6
England and Wales	-	18

There was only one infant death during the year, which gives an infant mortality rate of 6 per 1,000 live births which compares favourably with the rate of England and Wales as a whole with an infant mortality rate of 18 per 1000 live births. The death occurred in a child of 7 months and was due to respiratory infection superceding on severe physical handicap, the nature of which markedly restricted the child's power of resistance.

Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births 6

Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births 0

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under 4 weeks per1,000 total live births)

Whittlesey Urban District	-	0
England and Wales	-	12

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)

Whittlesey Urban District	-	0
England and Wales	-	30

MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)

Number of Deaths

Whittlesey Urban District	-	0
England and Wales	-	133

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live and Stillbirths

Whittlesey Urban District	-	0
England and Wales	-	0.17



DEATHS (ALL CAUSES)

<u>Male</u>	61	<u>Female</u>	47	<u>Total</u>	108
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Death Rate - per 1,000 estimated population

Whittlesey Urban District	-	10.4
Whittlesey Urban District adjusted	-	11.6
England and Wales	-	11.7

Causes of Death in the Whittlesey Urban District, as  
supplied by the Registrar General for 1971.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Cholera	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-
Bacillary Dysentery and amoebiasis	-	-
Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	-	-
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	-	-
Late effects of respiratory tuberculosis	-	-
Other tuberculosis	-	-
Plague	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Streptococcal sore throat and scarlet fever	-	-
Meningococcal infection	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
Smallpox	-	-
Measles	-	-
Typhus and other rickettsioses	-	-
Malaria	-	-
Syphilis and its sequelae	-	-
All other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
Malignant neoplasm intestine	1	3
Malignant neoplasm lung bronchus	2	1
Malignant neoplasm breast	-	3
Malignant neoplasm uterus	-	1
Malignant neoplasm of buccal cavity and pharynx	1	-
Malignant neoplasm of oesophagus	-	-
Malignant neoplasm of stomach	-	2
Malignant neoplasm of larynx	-	-
Other malignant neoplasms	-	-
Malignant neoplasm of prostate	1	-
Leukaemia	-	1
Benign neoplasms and neoplasms of unspecified nature	4	4
Diabetes mellitus	1	1
Avitaminoses and other nutritional deficiency	-	-
Other endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	-	-
Anaemias	-	-
Other diseases of blood and blood forming organs	-	-
Mental disorders	-	-
Meningitis	-	-
Multiple sclerosis	-	-
Other diseases of nervous system	1	1



Causes of Death in the Whittlesey Urban District, as  
supplied by the Registrar General for 1971 (continued)

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Active rheumatic fever	-	-
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	1	-
Hypertensive disease	-	-
Ischaemic heart disease	25	9
Other forms of heart disease	2	2
Cerebrovascular disease	8	4
Other diseases of the circulatory system	4	2
Influenza	-	-
Pneumonia	2	5
Bronchitis, emphysema	3	2
Asthma	-	-
Other diseases of the respiratory system	-	-
Peptic ulcer	-	-
Appendicitis	-	-
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	1	1
Cirrhosis of liver	-	-
Other diseases of the digestive system	1	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-
Other diseases of the genito-urinary system	-	1
Abortion	-	-
Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium	-	-
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	-	-
Diseases of the musculo-skeletal system and connective tissue	-	1
Congenitive anomalies	-	-
Birth injury, difficult labour and other anoxic and hypoxic conditions	-	-
Other causes of perinatal mortality	-	-
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	-	-
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1
All other accidents	1	2
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	-	-
All other external causes	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total:	61	47
	<hr/>	<hr/>





## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

A disturbing feature has been the occurrence of three new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis. All have been in patients over 60 years and all have responded well to therapy.

An epidemic of measles occurred during the year which clearly demonstrated that immunisation against the disease had not been in operation long enough. It is hoped that by the time the next epidemic is due (1973) a vast reduction in notifications will be seen.

## NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified during 1971 :-

<u>Diseases</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Measles	94	82	176
Whooping Cough	3	8	11
Infective Hepatitis	1	4	5
Scarlet Fever	2	1	3
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	2	1	3
Dysentery	-	2	2
Total:	102	98	200





TO:

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my eighteenth Annual Report for the Urban District covering the year 1971.

There have been no outstanding problems during the year, although with the rise in values of old property several cases have arisen where obviously unfit dwellings, some practically derelict, are offered for sale. The prospective purchasers are led to believe that with a Council mortgage and financial help by way of an Improvement Grant the high purchase price is justified. The dwellings are difficult to value, often the plot of land being the only potential value and the extent and type of repair and reconstruction works are not fully appreciated. In order to prevent the difficulties which arise in these cases, it is necessary to carry out a survey of the housing stock to take action where necessary.

The support of the Chairman and Members of the Council and the help received from the Clerk of the Council and the Medical Officer of Health has been appreciated. Mr. Stocks and Mrs. Tyers have continued to carry out the work of the Health Department and their good work is also appreciated.

I am, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D. A. BAMFORD

Surveyor & Public Health Inspector



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### WATER SUPPLY

The South Lincs Water Board continues to supply water to a high standard to the district, details listed below :-

#### (a) Quantity of Water Supplied

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| (i) Total quantity supplied in year (i.e.) an increase of 9.3% on the 1970 quantity | 169,979,000 gallons   |
| (ii) Average Daily Consumption  | 465,000 gallons       |
| (iii) Per capita consumption  | 44.8 gallons/Head/Day |

#### (b) Mains Laid

The only mains laid by the Board in the Whittlesey Urban District area during the year was 1,120 yards of 4" p.v.c. main at Glassmoor Bank.

#### (c) Water Quality

All the water supplied to the Urban District originated from the source works at Wilsthorpe, Tallington and Etton.

Regular weekly samples of raw and treated water from each source of supply and from points within the distribution system were taken throughout the year and submitted for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory at Peterborough. In the vast majority of cases the results of these examinations were satisfactory, but slight trouble was experienced towards the end of the year with bacteriological pollution of the raw water at the Wilsthorpe source. The chlorination control equipment installed ensured that all water put into supply from this station was of a satisfactory quality.



## CARAVANS

Work is progressing satisfactorily on the Commons Road caravan site and eight fully residential caravans are now installed.

Efforts are now being made to bring the other residential caravan site in the Whittlesey District up to a similar standard.

## SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Work was commenced in the autumn by W. & C. French (Construction) Limited on the two year contract to provide an extension to the existing works and to the relief sewers, which were designed by Kershaw & Kaufmann of London. When carried out this work will relieve the congestion within the town's sewerage system.

## NIGHTSOIL COLLECTION

The Council employs a Contractor to empty pails, vaults and cesspools at properties which cannot be connected to the sewer. The Contractor empties pail closets three times in every fortnight and septic tanks and cesspools are emptied free on request twice a year.

The conversion of properties from pail closets and septic tanks with the aid of improvement grants continues satisfactorily.







## REFUSE COLLECTION

A bonus system for the refuse collection was implemented in the autumn and has proved to be of value. The collection is now maintained at a more regular interval and the outlying areas are now collected on a weekly basis similar to the town round. The standard of collection has not been allowed to fall and the introduction of a 35 cu.yd. collection vehicle in the town area has now given a small amount of room for expansion at the end of the round.

The refuse is collected by direct labour and two vehicles are used. The town area is collected by a 35 cu.yd. vehicle with compressor which is driven by the foreman and has four loaders. The outside areas are collected weekly using a 25 cu.yd. vehicle.

Routine servicing and washing of the vehicles is done by the drivers. Repairs are carried out by local garages.

Number of bins collected during the year	199,220
Town round weekly average	2,371
Outside area weekly round	1,457

## REFUSE DISPOSAL

The refuse disposal tip situated in New Road is now approaching the end of its useful life and it is anticipated that further disposal areas will be needed by the spring of 1972. A disused gravel working has been acquired by the Council and planning consent has been sought and approved for this use.

It is hoped that by using proper controlled tipping methods the potential source of rat infestation will be, to some extent, overcome. Regular poison baiting is still carried out and a good measure of control achieved.

When the new tip is in use it is intended that it will be open to the public seven days a week and that an area of land will be set aside for the depositing of derelict vehicles. By so doing it is hoped to prevent indiscriminate tipping of unwanted articles on roadside dykes and grass verges.

The Council continue to have two part-time tip attendants on the existing tip but it is envisaged that some form of machine will be required for proper control of the new tip.



## OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES

Routine visits are continuing to be carried out to registered premises and in the main facilities and standards would appear to be improving.

No accidents of any sort were reported during 1971.

## COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

## SWIMMING BATHS

The Council has an open air heated swimming pool in the Manor Field, Station Road. The pool is 110 feet long and 42 feet wide. The manager carries out tests twice daily, more frequently in times of heavy loads, and by careful control of the continuous filtration and chlorination plant a satisfactory standard was maintained. Bacteriological samples of the water were also satisfactory.

## PETROLEUM INSPECTIONS

Several petroleum installations have been renewed or enlarged within the year and the standard of installations remains satisfactory.





## INSPECTIONS

The following table summarises the inspections made in 1971 :-

	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Informal Notices</u>	<u>Statutory Notices</u>
Cesspool, pail and vault work	60	2	-
Drainage	65	8	-
Factories, Workshops and Bakehouses	29	-	-
Slaughterhouses and Butchers Shops	130	-	-
Food Shops	116	-	-
Restaurants	12	3	-
Verminous and Filthy Premises	2	-	-
Housing	829	4	-
Nuisances	47	10	-
Caravan Sites	42	-	-
Refuse Collection and Disposal	31	-	-

All notices served were complied with.

## DISINFESTATION AND DISINFECTION

One of the Council's biggest housing estates was the subject of a caterpillar attack which almost succeeded in completely stripping the leaves from the ornamental trees. However, by the sustained efforts of the Council's direct labour force using tractor based spraying equipment, the caterpillars were destroyed. We continue to receive reports of wasps nests and in the main these were successfully dealt with. This Authority has, within its area, several old mud walls which give rise to treatment problems and these are a source of continual concern.

The Council now employ a contractor for the control of rodents within the district. This was necessary due to the illhealth of the Council's own rodent operator. Service received to date has been excellent.

### ANNUAL REPORT ON RATS AND MICE

<u>Properties other than sewers</u>	<u>Type of Property</u>	
	<u>Non- Agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
1. Number of properties in district	4283	269
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	135	35
(b) Number infested (i) Rats	75	30
(ii) Mice	60	-
3 (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	1453	31
Number infested by (i) Rats	40	12
(ii) Mice	-	-

No sewers were infested by rats during the year.



## HOUSING

Number of houses erected during 1971 :-

By Local Authority	24 Flats
By Private Enterprise	146 Houses and Bungalows

12 applications were made for Improvement Grants and 23 applications for Standard Grants, all of which were approved and received grants.

9 Notices of Time & Place to consider the condition of 9 dwellings were served in the year and the following action was taken :-

Demolition Orders	10
Closing Orders	6

Some Closing Orders made on dwellings in terraces were revoked and replaced by Demolition Orders when the rows were completely vacated.

Two properties on which the Council had accepted Undertakings have been modernised with the aid of Improvement Grants and are now completely fit.

## HOUSING ACT, 1969, PART III RENTS

Sixteen Applications for Qualification Certificates were received. Eleven Provisional Certificates and Four Qualification Certificates were issued and One Qualification Certificate was refused.

Landlords of rented property appear to be making more use of the Qualification Certificate procedure for bringing property up to standard and also for the registration of Fair Rents on a property which meets the required standard. More and more landlords appear to be realising that a properly maintained house with a reasonable rent return is a far more economic proposition.





FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

Inspections made (under the Factories Act) for 1970

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	5	-	-
Factories in which Section 7 is enforced	53	24	-	-
Other Premises	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	55	29	-	-

Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Found	Number of Cases in Which Defects were found Remedied		Number of Cases in which Defects were Referred to H.M. Inspector		Number of cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted
Want of Cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-	-
Closet Unsuitable or Defective	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL :	-	-	-	-	-	-

OUTWORK SECTIONS 110 & 111

There are no outworkers in the district.



## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### ICE-CREAM

There are 47 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream; all the ice-cream being pre-packed. The only loose ice-cream sold in the area is sold from vehicles.

There are no ice-cream manufacturing premises in the area.

### CONDEMNED FOOD

Ten certificates were issued covering 1,304 items of foodstuffs which were voluntarily surrendered by shopkeepers. The incidence of refrigerator failure appears to be on the increase this year and the majority of the items fall within this category.

### FOOD PREPARATION

Premises registered for the making up of food	11
Fish Friers	3
Bakehouses	3
Cafes	2
Other food shops	39
Public Houses	29

Satisfactory food premises and food handling are of prime importance and it is essential for food handlers to learn the correct methods of dealing with modern food packaging, particularly frozen foods.



## SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There is one modern privately owned licensed slaughterhouse in the area. It is well maintained and is capable of handling a much larger throughput than is being dealt with at present.

Number of animals killed :-

Cattle, (exclud- ing cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
45	-	-	117	198	-

## KNACKER'S YARD

At their meeting in January the Council ratified the closure of the district's only knacker's yard.

## MEAT INSPECTION

All animals killed in the slaughterhouse are inspected mainly involving overtime.





MEAT INSPECTION

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle (exclud- ing cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	45	-	-	117	198	-
Number inspected	45	-	-	117	198	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis &amp; Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	3	5	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci	4.44	-	-	3.41	2.52	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis						
<u>Cystercercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-



## MEAT INSPECTION

### Bovines

Extensive bruising	5 lbs.
1 liver distomatosis	5 lbs.

### Sheep

1 whole lamb fevered	60 lbs.
3 livers fluke	7 lbs.

### Pigs

1 head actino	7 lbs.
1 head inflammation	4 lbs
2 hearts, lungs, liver pleurisy	25 lbs.
1 liver necrosis	5 lbs.







